



KARO ECHO Newsletter

KARO ECHO

Serving the communities
of El Cerrito and
Kensington, California

Web: www.karoecho.net

Facebook:

[KARO ECHO facebook](https://www.facebook.com/karoecho)

Email: info@karoecho.net

Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2nd Monday of each month
7:00 pm

Arlington Park Clubhouse,
(new location)
1120 Arlington Blvd,
El Cerrito, CA

The next meetings are:

May 13th, 2019

June 10th, 2019

Meeting minutes are on
the website in the past
events page. Thank you to
Natalie KM6UCF.

What's New

KARO ECHO Meeting May 13, **New Time and Location**, 1900 in El Cerrito

Reminder that the KARO ECHO meeting time has been moved up to 1900 from the previous time of 1930. The location is now at the Arlington Park Clubhouse. The meeting will be held on May 13 at Arlington Park Clubhouse, (new location) 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA.

The upcoming Club Meeting on May 13 will include a presentation on antennas for base, mobile, and portable operations in disaster communication, including measuring SWR to confirm a good match. Also, a prototype of the external patch box for El Cerrito clubhouse antennas will be displayed.

KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>. Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

Weekly Training Net

The **Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net** meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

KARH-ECHO Frequencies

The KARO ECHO primary frequency is still 146.415 MHz simplex. **Our secondary frequency however has been changed to 146.475 MHz simplex** thus creating a 60 KHz spread between operating frequencies that will reduced adjacent frequency desensing.

Volunteer leads needed

KARO ECHO needs someone to take the lead on membership activities including outreach to new and existing hams to build the KARO ECHO roster and participation.

Also, a volunteer to focus on grant opportunities and writing grant applications is an important job that could really help expand the scope of our activities.

LOCAL NETS**KARO ECHO NET**

146.415 MHz Simplex

Thursday eve, immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but never before 1900 hours local time.

West Contra County ACS/RACES Net

145.110 MHz repeater

(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Thursday: 1845 local time

Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net

3893 KHz

Thursday: 1835 local time

American Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA)

WW6BAY Repeater

443.975 MHz

TX =5 MHz, PL 100 Hz

Wednesday: 2000 local time

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Hal KK6NDF

Treasurer: Larry KK6GIO

Secretary: Natalie KM6UCF

Vice President Pro Tem:

Don NI6A

Emergency Coordinator:

Jamel KM6HBO

Exec Board Member at Large,
and newsletter editor:

Howdy KE6BEE

Webmaestro: Rob K6RJM

What's New *(continued)***FRS/GMRS EMCOMM training, June 4, 7 - 9pm, Arlington Park Clubhouse**

[This KARO ECHO training](#) is primarily oriented toward CERT members interested in learning more about how to effectively use FRS/GMRS radios in an emergency communication situation and how to bridge to ham operators like KARO ECHO. Geoff Lomax, co-founder of BeCERTAINN will present how GMRS repeaters work to benefit communication in community neighborhoods, as well as additional presentations from KAROECHO operators.

KARO ECHO Dues are Due !

Action Item: Please send in your dues to KARO ECHO -- P.O. Box 2025 -- El Cerrito, CA. 94530-3651 or see Larry at this Monday's meeting at the Arlington Park clubhouse. You can still be a non-voting member of KARO ECHO without paying dues, but only licensed Amateur Radio Operators and dues paying members will be allowed to vote. So if you can't afford \$30 for full membership (or \$40) for family membership), please come and participate in any case. Your suggestions are important to disaster comms in our cities. We are still in the hole for expenses already expended for our incorporation, our post office box, web page, and station operating manuals.

Prototype Antenna patch box for El Cerrito Clubhouses

In order to establish ready access to the installed antennas on the Tassajara and Harding Clubhouses (on the north and south ends of El Cerrito respectively), we are proposing to install a lockable exterior box with a coax connector inside to allow ham operators to patch into these roof top antennas with their handheld or mobile radios. A prototype will be displayed at the May 13th meeting. So far, the city has been receptive to this change. If possible, we may be able to add a separate FRS/GMRS antenna and install similar antennas and patch boxes at additional locations.

Field Day June 22 – 23, Cesar Chavez Park, Berkeley

EBARC and NALCO are organizing a [field day installation](#) at Cesar Chavez park in Berkeley. [Sign up to volunteer](#) for setup and/or radio operation.

BeCERTAINN exercise recording

On May 4th BeCERTAINN conducted a radio exercise in coordination with a wider emergency exercise in Berkeley. [A recording was made of the net traffic](#) of their GMRS repeater and simplex operations during the exercise.

Activities

Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the 8 volunteer stations listed below who have been taking turns at NCS over the past few months. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. There are opportunities to fill in when a regular station has a scheduling conflict and there is always room to add more stations to the rotation. The NCS isn't expected to lead an exercise each week, but is welcome to. The exercise/training group will continue to provide this content following the check-ins, as possible. Please [download the new Net Script for NCS operators](#). The protocol for voicing "emergency" traffic has changed.

Action Item: Help create a deep pool of skilled NC operators. Please contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	K6RJM	Rob McNicholas
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	NI6A	Don Simon
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow	KK6SRD	Ken Gustafson

Over the past year of keeping track of our Thursday net check-ins, there have been 55 unique call signs and an average of 14 check-ins per week. The largest number of check-ins was 20 on 3/21/2019. Thanks to everyone who participates so reliably. Don NI6A had the most 2018 check-ins with 39, but there were 17 more stations with 20 or more (KJ6AAT, KE6BEE, KJ6BHX, KM6CXI, KJ6DJ, KK6GIO, KM6HBO, KE6HCE, K6KOP, KK6NDF, KC6OBK, KC2OKI, KK6RED, K6RJM, KK6SRD, KJ6WSS, KK6ZPM). Armando KE6HCE leads the pack for 2019 with 13 check-ins so far.

About KARO ECHO

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The next meetings are:

- ♦ May 13th, 2019
- ♦ June 10th, 2019

Yearly dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Mail to:

KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: www.karoecho.net

Outreach, Education and Licensing

Ham Class/Exam

June 12th will be a VE Exam session beginning 1830 at the Arlington Park Clubhouse in El Cerrito. Bring your photo ID (CA DL), FRN, and \$15 (Cash or Check). This is being held for students in the joint KaroEcho and East Bay Amateur Radio club (EBARC) Technician Class, but others are welcome to take any test level they have studied for. A great opportunity upgrade.

KARO ECHO Ham Cram

The KaroEcho Ham Cram is still in the works for the Summer; but it will require more volunteers. So far Jamuel KM6HBO, Andy AI6PW, David KJ6AAT, and Don NI6A have volunteered to help as Volunteer Examiners. Others have come forward.

We need to spread this and other efforts out to more concerned members to avoid burning out our small and dedicated core members. Please ask how you can help.

SET Video on YouTube

We are looking for volunteers to take the lead producing a video documenting the Feb 23 SET using assorted voice recordings, videos, photos, and narration. If you have any video editing or production skills (or you can recommend someone) please contact ni6a@arrl.net We need your help -- don't be shy.

ELMERING

Don is available for **Elmering/Mentoring**. Email ni6a@arrl.net

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of disaster radio communications topics at <https://www.karoecho.net> website and/or request specific literature to be created.

CERT SET YouTube Video

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLIn4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

Net demonstration for new hams

Howdy KE6BEE hosted a net demonstration on April 25th at the Harding Clubhouse in El Cerrito. Four students about to take their license exam attended to observe and listen to the KARO ECHO net from the NCS operating station. This was a helpful real world demonstration of what they have been studying in class and a chance to ask questions. Future in-person radio operation demonstrations may be an important way to engage new hams to get on the air.

Communications Handout to the CERT Graduates

A one page handout for CERT trainees regarding disaster communications was distributed to the CERT class ending April 23rd. The handout includes an outline of how neighborhood blocks will communicate with CERT area command posts, as well as between CERT area command posts and the EOC. The flyer also publicized the June 4th FRS/GMRS EMCOMM training organized by KARO ECHO. The following is the draft that we started from https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QuU1EkkXipGgu9lNUur_xli38Tv8zRvGimgJ1lp0B8g/ There is still more work needed on refining the organizational structure of the CERT program as it relates to interfacing with radio communications in a disaster.

KAROECHO.Net Website

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page (<https://www.karoecho.net/events>) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ♦ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ♦ If you haven't already filled out the **JOIN** form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ♦ A follow-through novice primer has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more. See: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>
- ♦ Also a new Dual-Band antenna primer for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-ducky world is at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view
- ♦ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ♦ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
On every Thursday evening net there will be a training session and/or discussion. Summaries of recent net events are found under our past events page at <https://www.karoecho.net/events/past-events>
- ♦ Note: See the **KARO ECHO Agenda** for our upcoming Monday, May 13th, 2019 Meeting see: <https://www.karoecho.net/events> the agenda will be made available no later than the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting.
- ♦ All recent KARO ECHO **Minutes will be found at our Past Events page** We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page.](#)

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email Don, ni6a@arrl.net